

government functions. In addition, she led the charge for improved planning and instituting land use reform; for a comprehensive budget process; for addressing long term space needs of the county; and for ensuring that seniors and children received the best possible services. Gert was always an advocate for those not able to advocate for themselves—for making government work for the people it can best serve.

Perhaps more importantly, Gert gave of herself as a wife to Bud Taylor for 49 years, and as a mother of six children. She was an active community member as a Scout leader, 4-H leader, Key leader, sponsor of youth sporting activities and rodeo events, and as the candy lady to a whole generation of Mariposans.

Gert was an independent, active and caring voice in the community, and Mariposa will miss her.

Mr. Speaker, by honoring Gert Taber, we hold an example for all Americans as contributing members of their communities. For this reason, I am honored to pay tribute to Gert Taber, truly the first lady of Mariposa.

#### INTRODUCTION OF PRIORITY SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 5, 1996*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, last year the 104th Congress marked up and passed the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. I was pleased to support that legislation in committee and on the House floor. In fact, I was successful in including an amendment to this new law which makes it a top priority for the Office of Management and Budget [OMB], when collecting information and applying new information technology, to make certain that small businesses selling goods and services to the Federal Government get paid on time.

But this new statute still does not assign nearly enough priority to cutting the redtape and paperwork on the smallest of the small businesses that are most in need of relief. This is because the executive branch generally defines a small business to mean any employer of 500 or fewer employees.

Most businesses in Vermont have 10 or fewer employees. Furthermore, I venture to say that most Americans don't think of a company that employs 499 employees as having the same needs and problems as a company that employs 25 or fewer employees.

We need to focus the attention and limited resources of OMB and other Federal agencies on reducing burdensome paperwork on those it is hurting the most—the smallest businesses that can least afford the time, personnel, and additional costs associated with meeting all of the Federal Government's regulatory and reporting requirements.

This bill does just that. It defines microenterprises to be small businesses in America that employ 25 or fewer employees. In addition, it calls upon the Director of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within OMB to make it a priority to first consider the adverse effects on the smallest of small businesses, when directing and overseeing efforts to cut Federal paperwork and information reporting.

It also makes helping the smallest of small businesses a priority for voluntary pilot projects when OMB, other Federal agencies, and non-Federal entities test alternative policies, practices, regulations, and procedures to reduce the Federal paperwork burden.

We live in a time when the Federal Government must learn to do more with less. Therefore, in setting out to cut Federal regulatory costs and paperwork for American businesses, we should first strive to help the truly vulnerable small enterprises who operate much closer to the margin and whose survival is always in greater jeopardy.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 5, 1996*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, due to inclement weather, I was unavoidably detained and missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on rollcall vote No. 402, H.R. 447, the Toll Free Consumer Hotline bill, I would have voted "aye." And on rollcall vote No. 403, the Ukraine Independence Act, I again would have voted "aye."

THANK YOU, JIM FINLEY, FOR  
YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 5, 1996*

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff—Jim Finley, my district administrative assistant—for all he's done for me and my constituents in the 16 years that he was worked in my office.

I met Jim in 1980, when I was first running for Congress and he was working as managing editor of the Baytown Sun. While Jim and the Baytown Sun remained scrupulously fair and impartial throughout the campaign, he and I developed a friendship as a result of frequent meetings. Jim had worked at various newspapers throughout southeast Texas in the preceding 19 years, and had served as the managing editor of the Baytown Sun for the previous 10 years.

I admired his hard work and professionalism at the Baytown Sun, and after the election, I was delighted when he agreed to head up my district office.

As a result of redistricting, Jim now oversees three district offices—in Humble, Conroe, and College Station. Jim's work in managing the operations of my district office was recognized in 1986 when he was asked to come to Washington, DC, to advise newly elected Re-

publican Members of Congress on the effective and efficient workings of district offices. The advice he provided helped many of my colleagues get their own district offices up and running in a manner that effectively serves their constituents.

Jim has represented me at countless meetings over the years I was unable to attend, and has attended virtually all of my 569 town meetings held throughout the Eighth Congressional District.

Jim has long been active in his community. He is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Baytown, and served as chairman of the committee responsible for the construction of the Kiwanis War Memorial in Baytown. He is a former member, and past president, of the board of directors of BayCoast Hospital. And he is a charter member of the Baytown Go-Texas Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

When he is not working, Jim enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren: his daughter, Robin, and her husband, Steve Richards, and their children, Katie and Reid; and his son, Scott, and his wife, Jackie Finley, and their children, Devin and Falynn. An avid race fan, Jim worked for many years as a member of the pit crew of Scott's championship racing operation. And come football or basketball season, Jim can usually be found in front of a television set, watching his beloved Arkansas Razorbacks triumphing over their opponents.

Jim Finley is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know he has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank him for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism he has exhibited as a member of my staff.

Jim has yet to decide what he wants to do when I retire from office. But I am confident that the skills and professionalism he has demonstrated as my district administrative assistant will lead to continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" to Jim Finley for his years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution. And I know you join with me in wishing him, and his lovely wife, Margie, the very best in the years ahead.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO ODETTE ORAH  
LOUISE CHARBONNET

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 5, 1996*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to salute Mrs. Odette Orah Louise Charbonnet of Los Angeles, CA, on the occasion of her 100th birthday, which she observed on August 8, 1996.

Affectionately known as Mother, Odette was born in New Orleans, LA, on August 8, 1896. She was the third child born to Thomas and Julia Clayton. As a young girl, Odette teamed with her sister to form a dancing and singing duo known as the Clayton Sisters. The Clayton Sisters performed in New Orleans, as well as in surrounding areas.